

## Message Text

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53

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SCI-06 SMI-01 RSR-01 RSC-01 /022 W

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R 13Z JUL 73

FM AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3517

INFO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CALCUTTA 1309

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OSCI, IN, NP, BT

SUBJ: SMITHSONIAN - GABRIELLE YABLONSKY

1. WE RECEIVED LETTER JULY 12 FROM KARMA DORJI, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, MINISTRY OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND FORESTS, ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN, THIMPHU, DATED JUNE 29 TO MISS G. YABLONSKY IN CARE OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, AMCONGEN CALCUTTA. LETTER ACKNOWLEDGES RECEIPT OF TWO LETTERS FROM YABLONSKY, GIVES SOME REPLIES TO QUESTIONS ABOUT BHUTANESE-LANGUAGE TRANSLATORS, ETC. AND CLOSES WITH THE PARAGRAPH: "BESIDES THE ARTICLES SENT UNDER THIS MINISTRY'S LETTER (ENCLOSED) THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN SENT TO YOU THROUGH THE CUSTOMS OFFICE, CALCUTTA. PLEASE CONTACT THE PRINCIPAL CUSTOMS OFFICER, CALCUTTA, FOR THE SHIPMENT OF THE ARTICLES TO THE DESTINATION WHERE YOU DESIRE. AT THE SAME TIME, I WOULD LIKE TO REMIND YOU THAT WE ARE STILL NOT IN RECEIPT OF CHEQUE OR RUPEE EQUIVALENT, TOWARDS CUSTOM DUTY PAYABLE BY YOU FOR THE SUPPLY OF YOUR FILMS FROM ZURICH. I AM BEING PRESSED BY THE OFFICE OF REPRESENTATIVE OF HIS MAJESTY IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (FYI: THE KING'S SISTER) FOR EARLY PAYMENT. I HOPE YOU WILL UNDERSTAND MY DIFFICULTIES AND ARRANGE TO SEND ME THE CHEQUE FOR THE APPROPRIATE AMOUNT IN THE NAME OF PS TO REPT. OF HIS MAJESTY IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE. YOURS SINCERELY, KARMA DORJI."

2. ENCLOSURE MENTIONED ABOVE IS A LETTER TO MISS YABLONSKY CARE OF STATE TRADING CORPORATION OF BHUTAN, CALCUTTA,  
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DATED APRIL 30. IT INCLUDES LIST OF GOODS RELEASED BY HOME MINISTRY AND DESPATCHED TO CALCUTTA (WHICH IS THAT NOTED IN CALCUTTA 1030 AND 1085). AFTER LISTING OF YABLONSKY'S MATERIALS, LETTER STATES: "AS REGARDS THE OTHER ARTICLES THE HONORABLE HOME MINISTER IS NOT IN FAVOUR OF RELEASING AS THEY PERHAPS FALL UNDER THE RESTRICTION BY LAW OF THE COUNTRY. PLEASE COLLECT THE ABOVE ARTICLES FROM CUSTOMS OFFICE, CALCUTTA."

PARA: "I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO MENTION HERE THAT WE ARE STILL NOT IN RECEIPT OF EITHER A CHEQUE OR RUPEES EQUIVALENT FOR SWISS FRANC 3172.40. (FYI: THIS IS FIGURE WE ORIGINALLY HAD, SEE CALCUTTA 1030, NOT WHAT WE WERE LATER TOLD, SEE CALCUTTA 1085. END FYI). IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT YOU WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO PAY THIS UNLESS YOUR ARTICLES SEIZED BY THE HOME MINISTRY ARE RECEIVED BY YOU. I PERSONALLY FEEL THIS DOES NOT CONCERN WITH THE HOME MINISTRY. SINCE YOU HAD RECEIVED THE SUPPLY YOU ARE BOUND TO PAY THE DUTIES TO THE CUSTOMS OFFICE. NOW YOU ARE REQUESTED TO ISSUE A CHEQUE OR RUPEE EQUIVALENT AS THE CASE MAY BE FOR SWISS FRANCS 3172.40 AND THE SAME IS SENT TO THE OFFICE OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF HIS MAJESTY IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE. YOURS SINCERELY, KARMA DORJI, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, MINISTRY OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND FORESTS."

3. COPIES OF THIS LETTER WENT TO: 1) THE LIAISON OFFICER, CUSTOMS OFFICE, CALCUTTA, WITH THE FOLLOWING NOTE, "HE SHOULD NOT RELEASE THIS GOODS UNLESS MISS YABLONSKY WILL ISSUE A CHEQUE OR RUPEE EQUIVALENT AS THE CASE MAY BE AGAINST SWISS FRANC 3172.40. THIS HAS REFERENCE TO OUR DISCUSSION HELD IN THIMPHU. A CHEQUE OR RUPEE EQUIVALENT THUS RECEIVED FROM HER MAY PLEASE BE SENT TO THE OFFICE OF REPRESENTATIVE OF HIS MAJESTY IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE UNDER INTIMATION TO THIS MINISTRY; AND 2) THE HONORABLE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS.

4. RBI CLEARANCE FOR ORIGINAL NINETEEN PARCEL SHIPMENT HAS THIS WEEK BEEN RECEIVED. NOW INDIAN CUSTOMS' CLEARANCE IS REQUIRED. WE UNDERSTAND THAT CUSTOMS HAS REFUSED CONSIDER CASE UNTIL ENGLISH-LANGUAGE INVENTORY SUBMITTED BY STCB. ORIGINAL INVENTORY IS IN BHUTANESE LANGUAGE. ONCE BHUTNESE SUBMIT ENGLISH INVENTORY, GIVEN RBI WAIVER, WE UNDERSTAND CUSTOMS CLEARANCE SHOULD BE ROUTINE.

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5. THUS WE ARE APPROACHING TIME WHEN QUESTION OF YABLONSKY'S CUSTOMS ARREARS MAY STALL SHIPMENT OF EXHIBITION ARTICLES SINCE STCB UNDER INSTRUCTIONS (PARA 3, ABOVE) NOT TO RELEASE SHIPMENTS UNTIL ARREARS PAID.

6. JUNE 29 LETTER (WITH ENCLOSURE) BEING POUCHED TO KATHMANDU (COON), COPIES TO NEW DELHI AND NEA/INS.

ROSSELOT

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NNN

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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